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Summary of Findings for FY05 Quarter 4

- There were 275 children and youth served in FY05 Q4, compared to 808 for all of FY04.
- Proportionately more females (59%) were served.
- About one-half (51%) of children served were 16-18 years old, about one-third (31%) were 12-15 years old, and less than 10 percent each were between the ages of 0-5 and 6-11 years old, respectively.
- In terms of race, over one-half (58%) of the children and youth served during the most recent quarter were Caucasian, and 18 percent were African American. Asian American and American Indian children and youth represented one percent and zero percent, respectively, of those served. Almost one quarter of children and youth served (23%) in shelters during the most recent quarter were of Hispanic ethnicity.
- English was the primary language spoken at home for the great majority of children and youth served, with Spanish the next most common primary language spoken at 8 percent.
- Behavioral problems (54%) and school problems (35%) were the most prevalent presenting problems identified among children and youth entering shelter programs.
- The highest percentage of family presenting problems reported were parenting problems (59%) and family stress (49%).
- Over two thirds (69%) of children and youth served had identified needs for mental health services, and of those in need, over four-fifths (84%) were reported as receiving some form of mental health services. In addition, approximately one quarter (27%) of children and youth in the most recent quarter were reported as having additional unmet mental health needs.
- Almost two-thirds (62%) of the total number of children and youth served during the most recent quarter were also discharged during that quarter.
- The primary reason for discharge given by programs during the most recent quarter was "Goals accomplished" (42%), and the next most common reason was that the child or youth "Left without notice/AWOL" (21%).
- Twenty-two percent of children and youth were discharged to "other" settings than those listed in the response forms, with the next highest percentage discharged to their home with a parent or guardian (21%).
- Overall school attendance for the most recent quarter was 87 percent across emergency shelter programs.

Introduction

This report summarizes selected performance indicator results for 13 shelter programs funded by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, Quarter 4. Results are presented for individual programs and across all programs for the quarter, and compared to FY04 findings. When results are presented at the individual program level, a program code (denoted by the letters A-M) is substituted for the program name to ensure the confidentiality of each program. This report is the first to summarize data collected at the individual level. Prior to Quarter 4 in FY05, programs submitted data only in aggregate from, thus making it impossible to track individual-level changes within programs. Only data regarding staff indicators continues to be submitted at the aggregate level.

A note of caution about the findings reported in this report is that the number of children and youth served by each program varies a great deal, and several programs served few children and youth for the quarter. As a result, the findings for some indicators should be interpreted with caution because the percents may be represented by as few as 10 or less children and youth.

Data for the following indicators are presented in this report:

- Demographic characteristics
- Child and family presenting problems
- Child mental health needs
- Discharge characteristics, and
- School attendance.

Demographic Characteristics of Children and Youth Served

There were 275 children and youth served in FY05 Quarter 4, compared to 808 for all of FY04. This includes children who had entered programs before the start of Quarter 4 as well as those admitted to the program during that quarter. These counts for both years are unduplicated within a given agency, although a small percentage of children may have been served by more than one agency. As is shown in Table 1, there were proportionately more females served (59%) during the most recent quarter for which data was available (FY05, Q4; shaded area). In addition, programs C, F, H, J, L, and M served only females, and programs A, G, I, and K served only males. The relative proportion of males and females served during all of FY04 was comparable to this most recent quarter.

Overall, about one-half (51%) of children and youth served were 16-18 years old, about one-third (31%) were 12-15 years old, and less than 10 percent each were between the ages of 0-5 and 6-11 years old, respectively. Only 1 percent of children and youth served were 19 or older. These results differed slightly from those for last year in which proportionately fewer 16-18 year olds were served, and a greater percentage of 12-15 year olds received shelter services. In addition, the ages of children and youth served during the most recent quarter varied by program, with only three programs -- B, D, and E – serving children 11 years of age and younger.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Children & Youth Served: FY05 Quarter 4 & Relevant Comparisons

			704		5 Q4					FY()5 Q4	4 By	Prog	gram				
		Ove N=8	erall 808		erall 275	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J	K	L	M
-		N	%	N	%							%						-
Gender	Male	363	45	115	42	100	18	0	56	55	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	0
	Female	445	55	160	59	0	82	100	44	45	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	100
Age Range	0-5 years	123	15	20	9	0	33	0	61	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6-11 years	71	9	18	8	0	67	0	33	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	12-15 years	351	43	72	31	41	0	23	7	0	47	33	25	73	48	17	29	64
	16-18years	263	33	118	51	53	0	77	0	0	53	62	75	27	52	80	71	36
	19 + years	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	0
Race	African American/Black	177	22	50	18	11	9	22	20	5	9	42	31	0	14	26	17	12
	Amer. Indian/ Native American	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian/ Pacific Islander	17	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Biracial	57	7	6	2	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	15	9	0	0	0	0
	Caucasian/ White	420	52	159	58	83	73	56	44	40	64	38	46	91	71	54	63	53
	Unknown/Other	2	<1	58	21	6	18	22	28	50	23	21	8	0	14	20	21	29
Ethnicity	Hispanic	140	17	52	23	24	38	32	24	8	63	14	8	9	33	13	29	30
Primary	English	707	88	127	89	100	100	85	88	93	93	*	*	100	80	91	88	*
Language Spoken	Spanish	65	8	11	8	0	0	10	12	0	0	*	*	0	20	4	12	*
at Home a	Portuguese	1	<1	2	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	4	0	*
	Hmong	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
	Khmer	1	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
	Other	27	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	7	7	*	*	0	0	0	0	*

Note: Valid percents are presented.

In terms of race, over one-half (58%) of the children and youth served during the most recent quarter were Caucasian, and 18 percent were African American. Asian American and American Indian children and youth represented one percent and zero percent, respectively, of children and youth served. Data was reported as "unknown" or "other" for the race of slightly over one fifth of children (21%), a percentage that far exceeded that reported for all of FY04. In

^{*} Data was not submitted for these programs

^a New Admissions only

terms of ethnicity, Hispanic children and youth represented almost one-quarter of all those served (23%).

Finally, the primary language spoken at home was English for the great majority of children and youth served (89%), a figure that was almost identical to FY04. Across programs, only programs C, D, J, and L reported serving a significant percentage of children and youth for whom a language other than English was the primary language spoken in the home. For each of these programs, Spanish was the primary language spoken at 8 percent overall. Three programs – G, H, and M – did not submit data on this indicator in time for this report.

Presenting Problems

Children and Youth

As shown in Table 2, behavioral problems (54%), school problems (35%), neglect (31%), out of parental control (28%), and family violence/stress (26%) were the most prevalent presenting

problems identified among children and youth entering shelter programs. The rates of presenting

Table 2. Child and Youth Presenting Problems: FY05 Q4 & Relevant Comparisons (New Admissions Only)

				5 Q4					FY0	5 Q4	4 By	Prog	ram				
	Ove N=8		Ove N=		A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J	K	L	M
	N	%	N	%							%						
Abandonment	59	8	19	13	78	0	0	41	0	0	*	*	0	5	13	6	*
Abuse-Emotional	142	19	10	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	*	*	0	25	13	6	*
Abuse-Physical	126	17	25	18	0	0	5	12	71	21	*	*	0	25	4	18	*
Abuse-Sexual	84	11	16	11	11	0	50	6	0	50	*	*	0	5	22	88	*
Anxiety	82	11	7	5	33	0	0	6	0	0	*	*	0	0	4	12	*
Anger/ Aggression	221	30	30	21	44	0	10	12	0	43	*	*	0	35	13	35	*
Alcohol/Drug Use/ Abuse	135	18	23	16	22	0	6	18	0	36	*	*	33	25	26	6	*
Behavioral Problems	449	61	76	54	44	20	70	29	36	50	*	*	33	70	78	41	*
Criminal/Illegal Activity	99	13	14	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	10	35	18	*
Death/ Absen. of Caregiver	103	14	6	4	0	0	0	6	0	0	*	*	67	10	0	6	*
Delinquency	100	14	36	25	11	0	50	0	0	71	*	*	0	30	0	53	*
Depression/ Withdrawal	98	13	26	18	56	0	5	0	0	64	*	*	33	5	4	47	*
Developmental Delay	36	5	1	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Developmental Problem	31	4	4	3	0	0	10	12	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Eating Disorders	28	4	1	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Family Violence/ Stress	171	23	37	26	0	0	15	29	0	7	*	*	0	30	35	82	*
Fire Setting	17	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Grief and Loss	82	11	5	4	22	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	13	0	*
Health Problem	16	2	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Hyperactivity	61	8	4	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	*	*	0	0	4	12	*

	FY	04	FY0	5 Q4					FY(5 Q4	Ву	Prog	ram				
	Ove N=8		~	erall 275	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J	K	L	M
	N	%	N	%							%						
Language/ Speech Disorder	12	2	4	3	0	0	0	24	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Mental Health Problem	137	19	17	12	33	0	0	6	7	14	*	*	0	25	9	18	*
Neglect	194	26	44	31	33	0	0	59	86	29	*	*	0	30	13	6	*
Out of Parental Control	249	34	40	28	11	0	50	6	0	50	*	*	0	5	22	88	*
Prenatal Drug Exposure	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Relationship Prob./ Issue	95	13	20	14	11	0	50	0	0	29	*	*	0	0	22	0	*
School Problems	183	25	50	35	78	0	70	0	0	21	*	*	33	55	52	12	*
Self-Injurious Act	36	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	21	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Sexual Problems/ Issues	59	8	9	6	11	0	15	6	0	29	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Suicide Attempt/ Threat	30	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	21	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Violent Behavior	55	7	4	3	0	0	5	0	0	7	*	*	0	0	0	12	*
Other	93	13	22	16	44	0	85	0	0	7	*	*	0	0	0	0	*

Note: More than one response was allowed so that percents may exceed 100. Only valid percents are presented. Top 5 FY05 Q4 categories noted in bold. * Data not submitted for these programs

problems across programs also differed considerably, suggesting that shelters used different criteria to identify child-presenting problems, or served different types of children and youth. Three programs – G, H, and M – did not submit data on this indicator in time for this report.

Comparison of the most recent quarter with all of FY04 indicates that the percentage of child and youth presenting problems was similar across these two periods, with a few exceptions. There was proportionately fewer reported emotional abuse for those entering shelters in the most recent quarter (19%-7%). However, the percentage of children and youth who entered shelters in the most recent quarter who had school problems was proportionately higher (25% vs. 35%, respectively).

Family

Family presenting problems reported for children and youth entering emergency shelters during the most recent quarter are shown in Table 3. Overall, the highest percentages of family presenting problems reported were for parenting problems (59%), family stress (49%), neglect (23%), parental alcohol/drug use (20%), and physical abuse (16%). Once again there was great variability among individual programs in family presenting problems reported. Three programs – G, H, and M – did not submit data on this indicator in time for this report.

Marked changes for the most recent quarter in comparison to all of FY04 were as follows: substantial increases in the percentage of children and youth entering shelters reporting family stress (39% vs. 49%) and parenting problems (45% vs. 59%), and substantial decreases in the percentage reporting problems with access to services (13% to 0%), behavioral problems (32% to 8%), and request for placement (24% to 5%).

Table 3. Families Presenting Problems: FY05 Q4 Overall & Relevant Comparisons (New Admissions only)

	FY	704	FY0	5 Q4					FY	705 Q	4 By	Pro	gram	1			
		erall		erall	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J	K	L	M
	N=	808 %	N= N	275 %							%						
Abandonment	54	9	9	6	56	0	0	18	0	0	*	*	0	0	4	0	*
Abuse-Emotional	65	11	8	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	*	*	0	20	9	6	*
Abuse-Physical	98	16	22	16	0	20	5	6	71	14	*	*	0	20	4	12	*
Abuse-Sexual	58	10	11	8	0	0	0	6	0	29	*	*	0	20	4	6	*
Access to Services	79	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Alcohol/Drug Use	119	20	29	20	33	80	5	41	7	14	*	*	33	20	26	0	*
Behavioral Problems	194	32	11	8	33	0	0	0	7	7	*	*	0	10	9	12	*
Child Care Needs	19	3	16	11	33	0	0	0	0	7	*	*	0	0	52	0	*
Criminal Involvement	68	11	13	9	0	0	0	24	7	29	*	*	33	0	13	0	*
Cultural/Language Barriers	21	3	3	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	*	*	0	5	0	6	*
Death/Absence of Caregiver	81	13	5	4	0	0	0	6	0	0	*	*	33	10	4	0	*
Developmental Delay	12	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	9	0	*
Developmental Problem	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Domestic Violence	76	13	6	4	0	20	5	6	0	0	*	*	0	15	0	0	*
Family Stress	236	39	69	49	0	0	10	88	0	21	*	*	33	85	70	88	*
Financial Problem	52	9	10	7	0	20	0	0	0	14	*	*	0	25	9	0	*
Grief and Loss	39	6	2	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	4	0	*
Health Problem	31	5	1	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
History of Physical/Sexual Abus	56	9	10	7	0	20	0	0	0	50	*	*	0	0	9	0	*
Housing Issues	60	10	6	4	0	20	0	0	0	14	*	*	0	0	13	0	*
Mental Health Problem	66	11	19	13	44	0	0	29	7	29	*	*	33	20	0	0	*
Neglect	131	22	33	23	0	0	0	65	71	36	*	*	33	25	4	0	*
Parenting Problems	267	44	84	59	89	0	45	24	7	64	*	*	33	85	91	82	*
Recreational Needs	2	<1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	5	0	0	0	*
Request for Placement	142	24	7	5	11	0	5	0	0	14	*	*	0	0	13	0	*
School Problems	99	16	11	8	33	05	0	0	0	0	*	*	33	25	4	0	*
Social Isolation	13	2	2	1	11	0	0	0	7	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Suicide Attempt	16	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Transportation Needs	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Unsafe Home Area	34	6	9	6	0	0	0	6	0	21	*	*	33	15	4	0	*
Other	41	7	22	16	11	0	0	0	0	7	*	*	0	0	0	0	*

Note: More than one response was allowed so that percents may exceed 100. Only valid percents are presented. Top 5 FY05 Q4 categories noted in bold. *Data not submitted for these programs

Mental Health Needs

Children and Youth

Emergency shelters reported that during the most recent quarter over two thirds (69%) of children and youth served had identified needs for mental health services. Shelters A, J, and L indicated the highest percentages of children and youth in need of mental health services (100%), and Shelter B reported the lowest percentage in need (0%). Three programs – G, H, and M – did not submit data on this indicator in time for this report. Of those children and youth reported to be in need of mental health services, over four-fifths (84%) were reported as receiving some form of mental health services. In general, virtually all programs that reported a need also indicated that the majority of such children and youth were receiving mental health services of some kind. In addition, approximately one quarter (27%) of children and youth in the most recent quarter were reported as having additional unmet mental health needs. This indicator of continued unmet mental health need varied widely across programs. Finally, responses of the most recent quarter to those in FY04 were generally comparable although there was a marked increase in the percentage of children and youth identified as having mental health needs from FY04 to this quarter (56% vs. 69%).

Table 4. Children's Mental Health Service Needs: FY05 Quarter 4 & Relevant Comparisons (Total Pop.)

	FY	FY04		5 Q4					FY	7 05 (Q4 By	Pro	gram				
	Ove N=8		Ove N=2		A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J	K	L	M
	N	%	N	%							%						
Identified Need for Mental Health Services	601	56	152	69	100	0	67	40	70	86	*	*	73	100	37	100	*
Receiving Mental Health Services	497	83	127	84	100	0	100	20	100	95	*	*	100	93	95	71	*
Children with Unmet Mental Health Service Needs	166	28	41	27	0	0	44	90	0	26	*	*	0	11	54	38	*

Note: Valid percents are presented.

Discharge Characteristics

Frequency and Reason

As depicted in Table 5, almost two-thirds (62%) of the total number of children and youth served during the most recent quarter were also discharged during that quarter. Programs varied little in the percent discharged for the quarter with one exception: Program I discharged substantially fewer (27%) of clients served. The primary reason for discharge given by programs during the most recent quarter was "Goals accomplished" (42%), and the next most common reason was that the child or youth "Left without notice/AWOL" (21%). Data reported for individual programs varied considerably. Three programs – G, H, and M – did not submit data on this indicator in time for this report.

^{*} Data not submitted for these programs

Table 5. Children Discharged and Primary Discharge Reason: FY05 Quarter 4 & Relevant Comparisons

		FY04 Overall		5 Q4					FY	705 Q	4 By I	Progra	am				
		erall 808	Ove N=	erall 275	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
	N	%	N	%							%						
Children Discharged	794	98	171	62	44	64	74	68	60	59	50	54	27	71	71	71	59
Discharge Reason																	
5/10 Days Notice	46	6	3	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
Adjudicated	2	<1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	10	0	0	*
Child Aged Out of Program	1	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Court Ordered	20	3	13	8	63	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	10	24	0	*
Goals Accomplished	280	35	72	42	13	0	35	94	100	54	*	*	100	35	40	53	*
Left Without Notice/ AWOL	211	26	36	21	0	0	60	0	0	15	*	*	0	40	32	35	*
Moved Out of State/Area	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Time-Limit Reached	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Unkn/Data Missing	0	0	31	18	13	0	0	0	0	8	*	*	0	0	0	0	*
Other	214	26	14	8	0	100	5	6	0	23	*	*	0	5	4	0	*

Note: Valid percents are presented.

Disposition

As shown in Table 6, just over one-fifth of children and youth were discharged to settings other than those listed (22%), with the next highest percentage discharged to their home with a parent or guardian (21%). Discharges to DCYF Foster Care (11%), Residential Placement (9%), and Supervised Independent Living (9%) were the next highest percentage of dispositions. Programs B and I both reported that no children or youth were discharged home. Given the large number of disposition categories reported and the relatively low number of children and youth represented in some categories, percentages on this indictor should be interpreted with caution.

Table 6. Children's Discharge Dispositions: FY05 Quarter 4 & Relevant Comparisons

		FY04 Overall		5 Q4					FY()5 Q	4 By	Prog	ram				
	Ove N=8		Ove N=	erall 275	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J	K	L	M
	N	%	N	%							%						
Children Discharged	794	98	171	62	44	64	74	68	60	59	50	54	27	71	71	71	59
Discharge Disposition																	
Adult Corrections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{*} Data was not submitted for these programs

	FY			5 Q4					FY	05 Q	4 By	Prog	ram				
	Ove N=	erall 808		erall 275	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J	K	L	M
	N	%	N	%							%						
DAS	14	2	9	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	6	20
DCYF Foster Care	89	11	19	11	0	43	0	35	67	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	10
Emancipation/Adoption	1	<1	3	2	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group Home	35	4	12	7	25	0	5	6	0	31	8	0	0	5	4	0	10
Home/Parent/ Guardian	138	17	36	21	38	0	15	12	25	23	8	29	0	30	28	24	20
Home-Relatives	33	4		2	0	14	0	6	0	0	0	0	33	5	0	0	0
Job Corps	1	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other More Intensive Prog.	61	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mental Health Services	1	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Psychiatric Hospitalization	19	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	14	0	0	4	0	0
Residential Placement	71	9	15	9	25	0	0	0	0	15	33	0	33	0	12	18	0
Shelter	25	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	5	0	6	0
Specialized Foster Care	65	8	10	6	0	43	0	24	8	8	0	0	33	0	0	0	0
Supervised Ind. Living	24	3	15	9	13	0	15	0	0	8	17	14	0	10	8	18	0
RITS	15	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	5	12	0	0
Other	200	25	37	22	0	0	60	0	0	8	17	29	0	35	16	29	40

Note: Valid percents are presented. Top 5 FY05 Q4 categories noted in bold.

School Attendance

School attendance for the most recent quarter was also compared to attendance for children and youth served during FY04. This indicator included the percentage of children and youth in emergency shelters who

met the state requirement of having attended at least 75 percent of school days during the school year. As is shown in Figure 1, overall attendance for the most recent quarter was 87 percent as compared to 56 percent for FY04. Across programs, attendance was generally high, ranging from 55 (Program H) to 100 percent (Programs A, B, D, E, and I).

more) with Relevant Comparisons (N=322 FY04 & N=163 FY05, Q4)

100%
90%
80%
70%
40%
20%
10%
0%
Percent Attending School

Figure 1. Percent of Children Who Attended School on a Regular Basis (75% or